

January 15th.

Vice-President VAUX in the Chair.

Thirty-one members present.

Dr. Leidy stated that in a communication to the Academy, by Dr. Mordecai, published in the last number of the Proceedings, the author remarks as the result of his observations, that the food of the shad consists of marine algae. A few weeks since Dr. L.'s housekeeper had incidentally called his attention to a shad, obtained in market, which appeared to her remarkable from the stomach being filled with small fishes. Dr. L. examined the shad to assure himself that it really was that fish, and submitted the stomach and contents to Mr. C. C. Abbott, who informs him in a note that the contents consist of nine small marine fishes, as follows: 3 *Hydrargyra swampina*, 5 *Pœcilia latipinnis*, and 1 *Cyprinodon ovinus*. Mr. Abbott adds, that in his dissections of the shad he had frequently detected the remains of cyprinoids in the contents of the stomach.

Mr. Slack called attention to specimens of *Mosasaurus* bones presented this evening. The animal was remarkable for its small size, and on account of its position where found, viz. in the upper stratum of the marl.

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January 22d.

Mr. LEA, President, in the Chair.

Thirty-nine members present.

Papers were presented for publication entitled

"Notes on Ants in Texas, by S. B. Buckley."

"Descriptions of new species of *Scolopendra* in the collection of the Academy, by H. C. Wood, Jr."

"Observations on *Cottus Copei Abbott*, by C. C. Abbott."

"Appendix to the Monograph of the *Philypui*, and description of the genus *Lembus* of Günther, by Theodore Gill."

And were referred to Committees.

Mr. Lea read the following extract of a letter from Dr. Lewis, of Mohawk, N. Y.

"I find three species of *Paludina* in the Erie Canal and Mohawk River at this place. Mr. Binney, after examining them, pronounces them one species—*decisa* Say,—regarding them merely as varieties. My reasons for regarding them as three species are as follows: The large species which I shall call *integra* Say, for the present (and until it is satisfactorily shown by reference to Say's *integra* from the original locality that it is a different species,) is the most ponderous shell of the three species. The *Embryonic young* attain the largest size (before exclusion from the parent) of the three species. The next species I will call *decisa* Say, though it is usually perfect at the apex, as well as the preceding. This shell is of a thinner texture, and the color of the epidermis is a darker tint, green. The *Embryonic young* at exclusion are of a delicate pale willow green. The third species I have for several reasons felt disposed to regard as *rufa* Hald. This does not attain so large a size here as the preceding species. The height of the shell is less, proportioned to its width. The central portions of the body whorl a little prominent, almost subangular in some instances, a little flattened towards the sutures. The epidermis olivaceous, with purpureous tinge on the centre of the whorl, fading above and below. The interior pink, margined above and below and at the aperture with white. *Embryonic young* smaller than in *integra* and *decisa*, and of a delicate pale pink color. The soft parts differ as do the shells. The habits of

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